

GERMAN SUBMARINE SHELTERS AT BRUGES : GENERAL VIEW.

GERMAN WAR CONSTRUCTION : SUBMARINE SHELTERS AND ZEPPELIN SHEDS.

By H. F. MURRELL [A.].

IN a paper recently read before the Institute on the subject of War Constructions by the Office of Works, Sir Frank Baines insisted that all building structures, whether of brick, steel, or concrete, are the essential business and interest of the architect. The writer had the opportunity of inspecting, shortly after the Armistice, certain structures erected by the Germans in Belgium during the war period, which, on account of their scale and peculiar construction, may not be without interest to architects.

A very great deal might be written of the series of strong points forming the defensive lines named after Hindenburg and the Wagnerian heroes, but it is princi-

ally in the submarine and air bases constructed some distance behind the lines that the ingenuity and constructive thoroughness of the Teuton is seen. Of war activities, that which appealed to the German heart most strongly was the attack on England, whether by air or submarine ; hence, it is not surprising to find thought and material lavished on structures connected with these methods of attack. Ostend, Bruges, and the Ostend-Zeebrugge Canal must have been the scene of feverish and fascinating activity during the German occupation, and the most interesting examples of submarine shelter are found in this region. The extraordinary strength of these constructions is a direct tribute to the efficiency and daring of our own Air Force. The simplest type of submarine shelter is that cantilevered over a quay wall, as shown in types A and B. It is difficult to believe that these gave any real protection to the submarine itself, as in type A

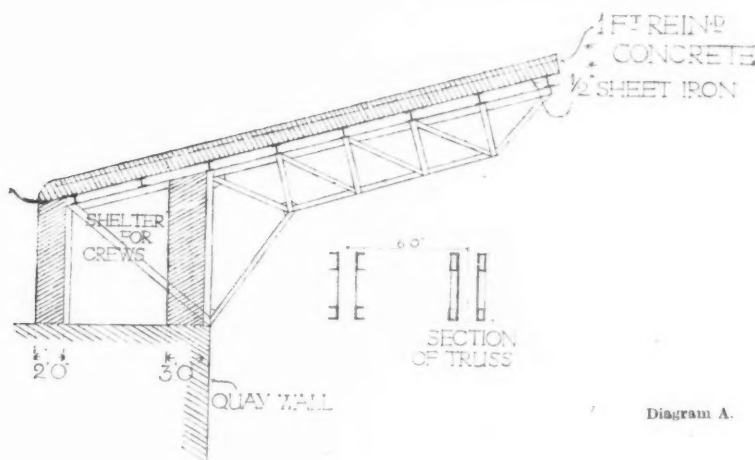


Diagram A.

pally in the submarine and air bases constructed some distance behind the lines that the ingenuity and constructive thoroughness of the Teuton is seen. Of war activities, that which appealed to the German heart most strongly was the attack on England, whether by

the roof is of reinforced concrete not more than one foot thick, and in the other case, of close-spaced R.S.J.'s, about 18 inch centres, and two thicknesses of half-inch iron sheeting. Possibly this type was intended principally to help morale, rather shaken in the

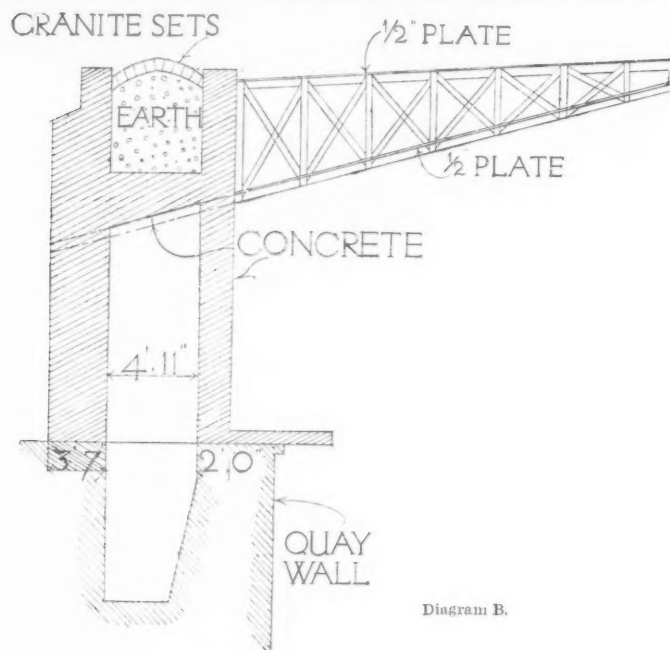


Diagram B.

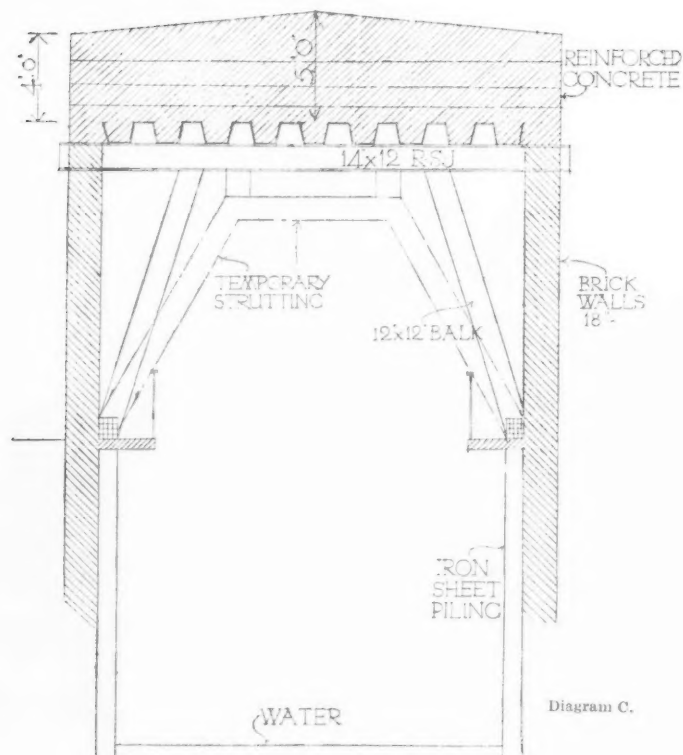
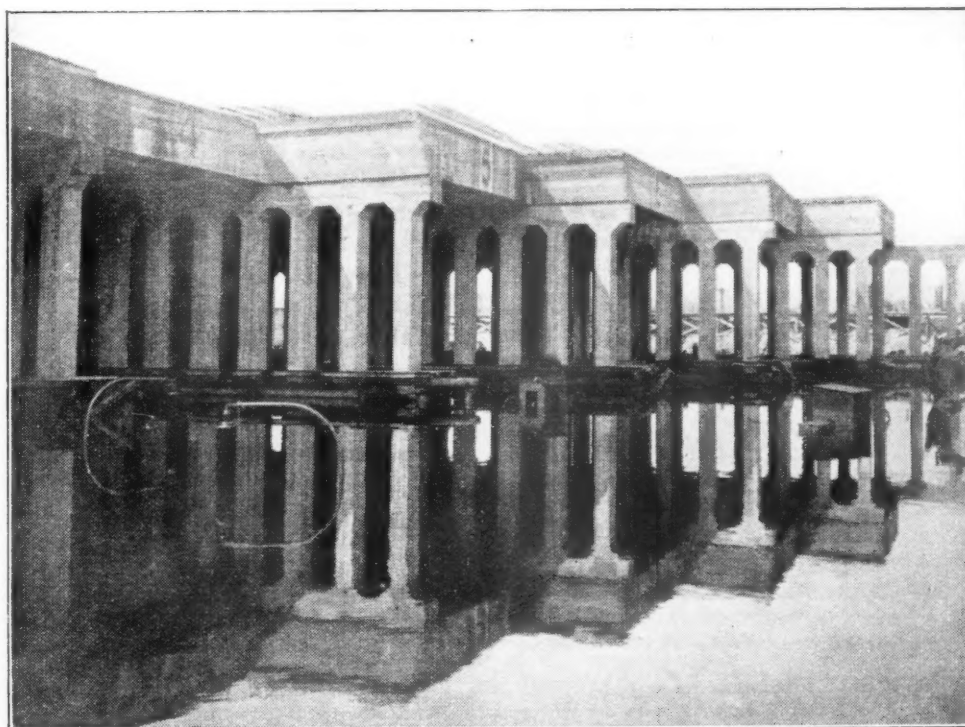
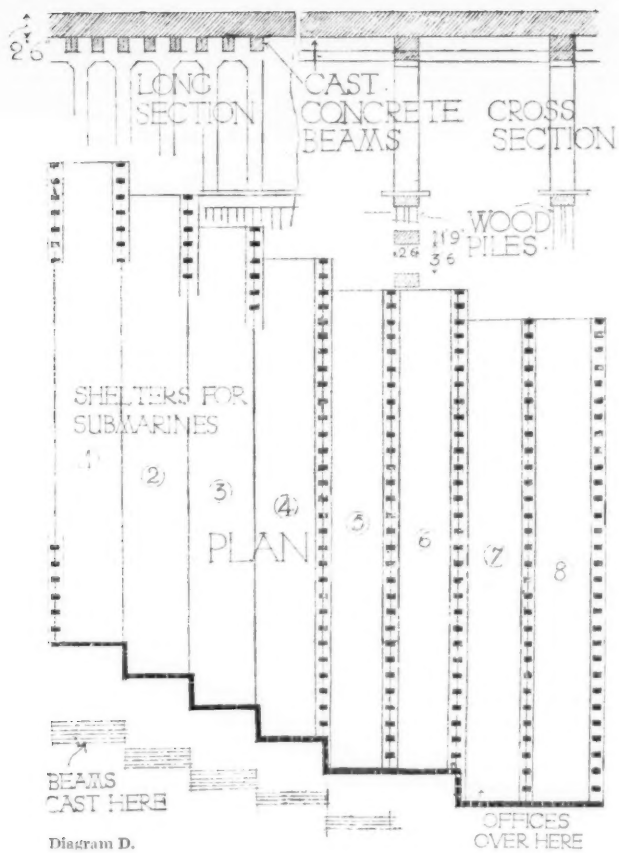


Diagram C.



GERMAN SUBMARINE SHELTER AT BRUGES: NEAR VIEW.

case of submarine crews, but the shelter trenches behind at least formed safe places for the crews during raids.

Type C shows a more efficient shelter, which seems to have been largely employed; there are examples somewhat similar at Ostend, Bruges, and on the Zeebrugge Canal. The lower portion has iron sheet piling; the roof of reinforced concrete, often five feet thick, is supported on trough girders carried on broad-flanged R.S.J.'s at about twelve feet centres, strutted by heavy raking timbers about twelve by twelve inches. The R.S.J.'s are carried on steel stanchions, the wall panels being filled in with fourteen inch or eighteen inch brickwork.

There is an interesting example at Bruges of such a roof having collapsed, but whether through defective centering, through a direct hit by a bomb, or through being blown up on the departure of the Germans, it is difficult to establish. By far the most elaborate shelter is the great eight-bay structure at Bruges (Diagram D). In its simple truthfulness of construction it has something of the greatness of a classic temple. It is difficult to believe that this structure was intended merely as a temporary war construction. If, as has been said, the occupation of Antwerp by a hostile power would be a loaded pistol levelled at the heart of England, then here was an eight-barrel weapon, ready to sink every food ship we could put upon the seas. Fortunately, it was but just completed when abandoned and sunken submarines were left lying at its entrance. The great block consists of eight shelters side by side, each approximately 30 feet by 250 feet, echeloned slightly on plan, probably with the idea of making the group less conspicuous from the air. The whole structure appears to have been built on piles with closely spaced concrete columns above. The roof was formed of coupled reinforced concrete beams, cast at the land end of each shelter, from whence they were raised, run along and dropped into position, the whole being covered with a slab of reinforced concrete about

two feet six inches deep. Offices were constructed on a first-floor at the land end of the block.

Perhaps the strongest buildings of all were those designed for the stores of submarine mines or possibly torpedoes. The roofs to these stores are of reinforced concrete, about seven feet thick, supported on closely spaced piers, the doors are of concrete, sliding on rails, with screen baffle walls inside; loading platforms and shelters over are all formed of reinforced concrete.

For making the enormous quantities of concrete required in all these structures, a large number of mixers of the familiar German pattern were employed. These were mounted on elevated platforms with long movable shoots to direct the concrete as required to various parts of the roofs. The whole of the wonderful Bruges submarine base was of fascinating interest, comprising every type of shelter, store, oil tank, floating dock and repair shop.

A visit shortly after its abandonment left, as outstanding impressions, that of the German determination to protect at any cost of labour and material the submarine vessel and personnel, considered so vital to the success of German arms, and of the dramatic change whereby such vast plant, stores and machinery had to be abandoned at the moment when much of the work was at the very point of completion.

Of even more daring and elaborate construction were the buildings designed to shelter Zeppelins. Doubtless considerable experimental knowledge had been gained in the design of these sheds in pre-war days at the great air bases at Friedrichshafen and elsewhere. The writer had the opportunity of examining two types of pre-war shed near Cologne when in occupation of our own R.A.F. These were of semi-permanent construction, one being some 120 feet in span, with roof principals of trussed girders at about 24' 0 centres. Another example is about 550 feet long and 140 feet span, the wall panels between trusses being filled in with fourteen inch brickwork. The great doors

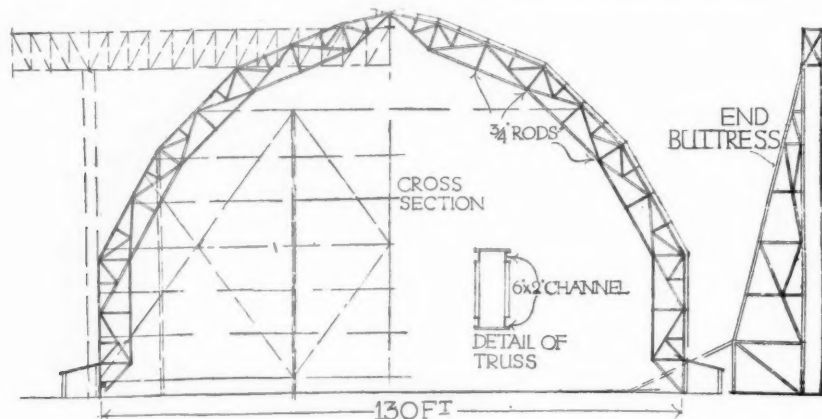


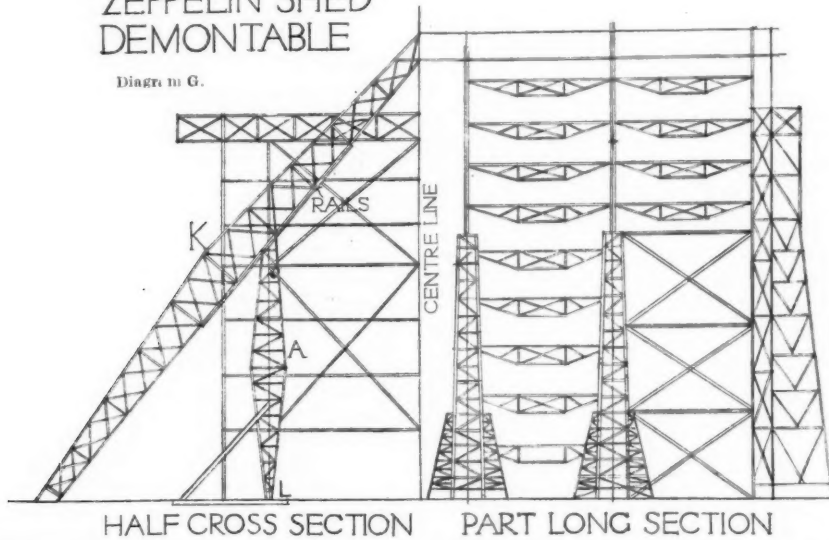
Diagram F.—ZEPPELIN SHED.

occupy the full width of the gable end, and were designed to fold back in two halves after the manner of

airmen. There was naturally no possibility of protecting such gigantic structures, but they may have

ZEPPELIN SHED DEMONTABLE

Diagram G.

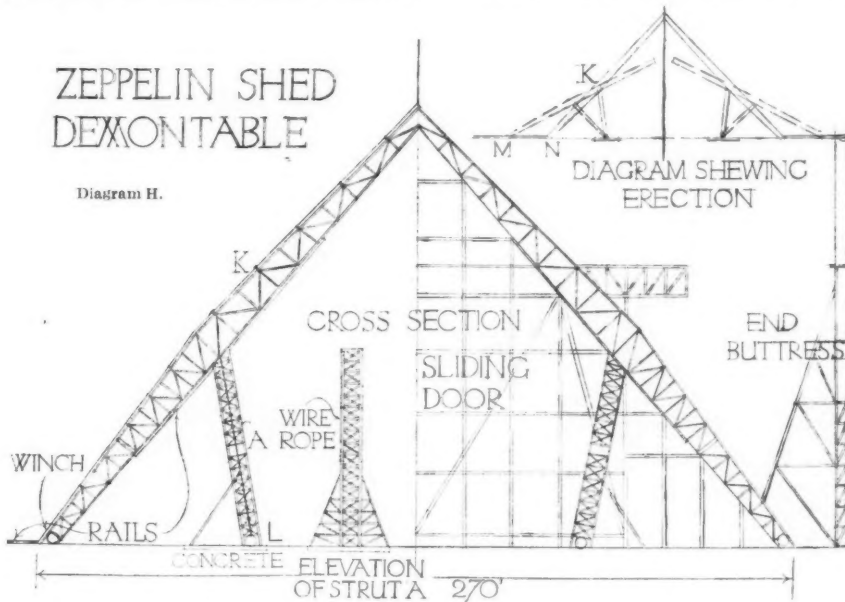


school sliding partitions. The whole installation was very complete, with gasometer, barracks for crew, etc.

been covered with camouflage netting. The span was about 130 feet, the length 450 feet, the height 70 feet,

ZEPPELIN SHED DEMONTABLE

Diagram H.



Of rather similar construction was the great shelter (Diagram F) erected near Brussels during the German occupation. This is said to have replaced an earlier shed which, with its Zeppelin, was destroyed by our

the great roof trusses at about 15'0 centres, framed up of channel and angle sections, are almost semi-circles (actually ten-sided), and some ten feet at their deepest. The purlins are R.S.J.'s with wood rafters,

boarding and ruberoid. As in other types of shed, the great doors run on rails, and are worked by motors, being suspended from mighty lattice girders carried on built-up columns which are strutted with raking lattice buttresses taking the wind thrust (Diagram F). Along either side of the shed were lean-to sheds of brick used for workshops.

Of even more ingenious construction were some sheds near Namur. It might be imagined that the engineer who originated this type sought inspiration from his umbrella. These great structures are virtually umbrellas with the central stick omitted, the struts being hinged at their base and sliding on the main rib.

Diagrams G and H show variations of the treatment, but the constructional principle is the same. The immense lattice beams must have been assembled on the ground. At their foot is a winch apparatus worked apparently by handles, the whole girder being mounted on rails. Large concrete blocks were constructed at L, and the struts A with their fixed hinged foot laid out under beam K. At the commencement of the raising operation K would have its foot on rails at M (key diagram). Gradually the mighty arm would be raised, being pushed along rails from M to N, strut A conforming itself to the movement, its head sliding on the rails on the underside of K and supporting the latter throughout the operation. The types G and H vary considerably in detail: type H being heavier and apparently the earlier, G being almost entirely of light angle sections. The most striking difference between them is in the form of the struts: in H they are built-up columns about two feet square, and set in a raking position, whereas in G they are built up of light sections bowed on one side and raking out on the other. In both types these struts are themselves supported with curious anchor members attached to them by wire ropes.

In both sheds the end bays are strutted longitudinally internally, while externally the large triangular framed buttresses support the lattice girder carrying the doors. These doors run on rails similarly to those already described, and are framed up of light angle section forming a door four feet thick. The sheds are about 550 feet long, having an overall span of some 270 feet, and 125 feet high to the ridge. Viewed from a distance in outline they suggest the Pyramids, but, unlike the latter, are not of a construction to remain for long as memorials of an Imperial idea.

Books and Pamphlets Received.

- The Foundations of Classic Architecture.* By Herbert Langford Warren, A.M., late Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of Harvard University. Illustrated from documents and original drawings. 1s. 8s. New York, 1919. 32s. net. [Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.]
- The Great Fire of London in 1666.* By Walter George Bell, F.R.A.S. With 41 illustrations, including Plans and Drawings, Reproductions of English and Foreign Prints and Photographs. 8s. Lond. 1920. 25s. net. [John Lane, The Bodley Head.]
- Geometrical Drawing and its Practical Application.* By Alfred E. Holbrow, A.R.I.B.A., of the School of Architecture, Polytechnic, Regent Street. 8s. 1920. [George Gill, 13, Warwick Lane, E.C.]
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings: Forty-third Annual Report—and General Meeting.* With a Paper by Mr. G. K. Chesterton. 2s. [A. R. Powys, Secretary, 20, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.]

REVIEWS.

PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

The 43rd Annual Report of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, with Paper by Mr. G. K. Chesterton. [A. R. Powys, Secretary, 20 Buckingham Street, Adelphi.]

The 43rd Annual Report of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is, like its predecessors in this long series, a very interesting and charming architectural and archaeological annual magazine. It contains half-a-dozen excellent photographs of cottages, town halls, and churches, and in this way alone the forty-three volumes are a valuable record of our heritage from the past. It contains also a reproduction of an admirable drawing by Mr. Handslip Fletcher, of St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, one of the threatened City churches, and a photograph of the riverside at Hammersmith, about which some anxiety is felt in view of reconstruction proposals which have been before the Hammersmith Council.

There is also a report of the annual meeting, with a witty and amusing speech by Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who spoke as an outsider, but with much appreciation of the principles that the society has upheld for half a century. Mr. Chesterton directed his remarks especially to the subject of ancient cottages, which it is the fashion to condemn on the grounds of health and convenience: and it is because he spoke as an outsider, if indeed he rightly so labelled himself, that such remarks as the following have especial value:—"The first thing to remember is that these human houses were built by human beings as intelligent, and, generally speaking, very much more free and independent than the people of the modern industrial society, and that they were built as part of a certain human life, the whole of which has to be taken into consideration, even if it has to some extent, and most unfortunately, faded from our civilisation." And again: "These things should be approached with a certain imaginative caution, and especially we must remember the whole mode of life of the people using these cottages. If they appear too small, they were meant for men who lived under the sky; if they are too warm, they were meant for men frozen to the bone." And again, speaking as before of ancient cottages, "The uneducated on the one hand and the educated on the other are on their side, and it is only the half-educated who always want to destroy them. . . . It is almost invariably found that the intermediate state between culture and ignorance is wrong."

The report was presented by the chairman, Mr. Thackeray Turner, who became secretary of the society some thirty-seven years ago, and who has only recently retired and given place to his admirable successor, Mr. A. R. Powys. When he became secretary, Mr. Turner said, almost every clergyman and every architect was dead against them; at the present time architects, clergymen, and mayors and corporations come and ask their help. There can be no better proof of the wisdom and knowledge with which the

educational work of the society has been conducted, no better disproof of the charges even now occasionally repeated that the society has not shown full consideration for other points of view in their patient propagation of their now widely and almost universally accepted principles.

A list is given of cases which have come before the society during the past year. The number of such cases exceeds two hundred, and among them appear places as far off as Cairo and Jerusalem.

Very interesting particulars of some of these cases are given. They include a report of the use of Messrs. Dreyfus' Tabary cement in the repair of decayed masonry, with some valuable remarks on the methods with which it should and should not be used; and of a case in which the interior walls of a church which had been "skinned" in an ill-advised restoration of the eighties have now been replastered.

The question of the threatened City churches is mentioned, not without due consideration of the financial aspect from the point of view of the Diocese of London.

The society is justified in congratulating itself on the great success of its past efforts and in looking forward to the future with hope and confidence, for it enjoys now in great measure the confidence of the community. It is to be hoped that in any future measures that may be contemplated for the preservation of ancient monuments and buildings, whether by the Church or by the community, the accumulated wisdom and experience of this society will find its due place and its due share, which ought to be a large one.

ARTHUR S. DIXON [F.].

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Hambidge's Discoveries.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

SIR,—Mr. Cloudesley Brereton's letter in the September number of the JOURNAL is good reading. Not only interesting to architects as coming from one experienced in the technique of another art, it is a corrective to much that has been written about Mr. Hambidge's aims and point of view. Mr. Hambidge is first and foremost an artist. Previous criticism had practically ignored that fact. His so-called "Mathematics" is a very simple affair; he says himself that there is very little in it that cannot be found in the 10th and 13th books of Euclid. He has been regarded by many, perhaps the majority, as an extremist, a mere theorist, a crank: it is the fate of the prophet.

In Greek architecture we seem to feel the presence of the geometrician, the man who sets out by rule. We should expect no less from a period contemporary with Plato and Aristotle. The forms employed have constituted a canon which has never been questioned. Sculpture, pottery and bronze craftsmanship show a serenity, a mastery of handling, a perfect equipoise between convention and nature which has been the

admiration of the world. These are truisms, but no satisfactory explanation has been given. For the most part we are content to accept the work as the product of a highly critical and vital age, or of exceptionally gifted schools of craftsmen. System, at least in the architecture, is admitted, however, in certain quarters. Pliny discourses so much about measurements that he may, after all, be broadly in the right? So, apparently, thinks Professor Lethaby, who seems now to accept a system of measurement the basis of which is the Greek foot. But how far can such a system carry us with sculpture and the accessory arts?

The marvellous schools of craftsmanship that carried on the lighted torch in the Middle Ages must have had a tradition that in its sureness resembled that of the Greek; in all probability a something was handed on. The output of the thirteenth century A.D. cannot be explained, but we seem to get nearer to schools and masters in the crafts, to a discipline of work. Even in the Renaissance the work of outstanding men was deeply founded on tradition. The schools of Ravenna and Rome were the precursors of the super-classicism of Brunelleschi and Bramante; but in much that is left to us of the work of the great questioning spirit Leonardo we have evidence of a searching after something more that had been lost altogether.

How much we are without any communal art expression at the present day is known to all. The torch of traditional work is quenched except for a feeble flicker here and there in the country districts, as in the agricultural arts of the wheelwright, the gate-maker and the smith. Yet the education of the architect is admittedly on a sounder basis than it has been for a long time, though it lacks a common language in the teaching of design. Most architects have some kind of system in their work, but it remains spasmodic and individual. The work of James Mitchell Whitelaw certainly deserves mention for the frankly explanatory nature of its structure, and he might have gone far if he had lived.

And now comes Mr. Hambidge with his theory of commensurable areas bounded by incommensurable lines. He claims that this theory, in various manifestations, enabled the Greeks to set out, even to comparative intricacies, their greatest works in architecture, sculpture, and the accessory arts. He claims also that his theory can be applied by the modern art worker in all aspects of design and technique. These are great claims and, if substantiated, might justify Mr. Cloudesley Brereton's belief that Mr. Hambidge "has liberated a vital sap that will not cease to circulate till it has mounted to the topmost branches of human activity."

Let us consider for a moment what Mr. Hambidge has already achieved, so far as the writer has been able to judge. He has examined and carefully measured many hundreds of examples of the best Greek pottery and bronze work and several human skeletons: he is

convinced that his theory governs the structural principles involved in these just as it is evident in the growth of natural objects, such as the sun-flower. He has prepared a ground plan of the Parthenon and has applied his theory to it with success. Certain examples of Greek sculpture have also been tested in the same manner and with, apparently, the same results. In regard to modern work, he has secured sympathetic appreciation, if not a following, from a band of American architects, painters and sculptors, of whom Mr. John Bellows is certainly known here as a lithographer and etcher.* He has published a book on Greek vases,† and two or more numbers of a serial called "The Diagonal" which give a general exposition of the theory.

The whole matter centres on the possibility of applying the theory to the designing processes and technique of the modern artist and craftsman. The measurement and graphic analysis of Greek vases is no doubt excellent and admirable as a means to an end, but architects in this country will certainly want to see the matter worked out more thoroughly in its relation to Greek building structure. If this can be achieved satisfactorily, a great step will have been gained. The application of the theory to modern industrial art and the precise amount of influence it has already exercised on the work of modern American artists will also have to be made more clearly demonstrable. The writer believes that Mr. Hambidge may be able to make good on these lines, though he is not perhaps the best exponent of his own ideas. At any rate, it seems most desirable that he should have a fair hearing from architects in this country. The Directors of our two greatest museums have shown a sympathetic attitude, and one of them was present at both the Institute and Art Workers' Guild meetings. Let us keep an open mind, therefore, and encourage the able and enthusiastic exponent of this theory which may be such an old theory, realising that although we may be, through stress of circumstances, chiefly concerned with erecting our own individual pyramids one man high (to make use of Mr. Lethaby's phrase), we should strengthen the hands of all those who are trying to elucidate the great principles on which our Art is based.

THEODORE FYFE [F.].

Proportions in Design.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

SIR,—May I say a word on behalf of those humbler examples of surd proportions to be found, perhaps, upon a tile or a bit of floorcloth, wayside flowers, so to speak, that are not unnaturally passed over for the exotic or "dynamic" specimens of the genus. Yet in their simple patterns, compounded generally of the square and circle, these proportions exist. A

circle surrounding a square sets up a ratio of 1 to $\sqrt{2}$ between the side of the square, and the diameter of the circle and any rectangular development of pattern will probably partake of this ratio.

Or let a circle surround a Greek cross, and the ratio of 1 to $\sqrt{5}$ will be established. Again, the span of a semicircle and the span of a quadrant are in $\sqrt{2}$ relation, and with these a proportion of this kind is most readily set up. A child with a pair of compasses who amuses himself by pattern-making will evolve many proportions. This is design. To establish them by measurement of areas may be design also, but the further the *de facto* evidence of such design has been pushed the more it appears, to a designer at least, to have confused the essential and constructive with the non-essential and opportune. And the same with regard to the interposition of natural law. We know that the vibration of a fiddle string is conditioned by the square root of its tension, but it is not to be supposed that Paganini was assisted by his possible knowledge of the fact. The surd, a quantity that cannot be reduced to finite expression, has always exercised a lure, and provoked Sir Thomas More's warning against "the ceremonies of Idolatrie and Magic that are full of non-significant and surd quantities." It is surely an irony of fate that a lost secret when disclosed should be open to this ancient prejudice.

C. J. TAIT [F.].

School of Architecture and Civic Design, Cardiff.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

SIR,—We desire to draw the attention of your readers to the important step lately taken by the Cardiff Education Authorities in establishing a new School of Architecture and Civic Design at the Technical College. This step marks a distinct forward move in architectural education in Wales, and parents and others who are considering the best method of obtaining a thorough technical training for our future architects and civic designers will do well to consider the opportunities which Cardiff now offers.

Up to quite recent times, the usual method of training was to article a pupil to a firm of practising architects. Although this was successful in cases where the ability of the student was marked and the principals were able and willing to impart knowledge, in the majority of cases the method was far from successful. The knowledge which the student was able to acquire in office hours through his own initiative and by the efforts of seniors was usually amplified by attendance at evening classes. The disadvantage of the latter, however good the classes may have been in themselves, was that the pupil after a normal day's work in the office was not physically fresh enough to receive the full benefit of the classes.

Under the new five years' scheme of architectural education at Cardiff these disadvantages will not arise. The student will be taken through a carefully

* See the fine etching (or lithograph) of the execution of Edith Cavell, exhibited at the Leicester Galleries in the late autumn of 1918, which Mr. Hambidge states is designed according to his theory.

† *Dynamic Symmetry: The Greek Vase*, by Jay Hambidge. (Yale University Press.)

prepared and graded course of study in the day-time, dealing with all branches of his profession. The theoretical and academic work will be amplified by practical demonstrations of buildings in course of erection, measured old work, historical research, and so on. Towards the end of his five years' course the student will spend part of his time in an architect's office, to apply in practice the knowledge he has acquired at College. The Cardiff Technical College have been fortunate in securing as head of the new department Mr. W. S. Purchon, M.A., A.R.I.B.A., who has had twelve years' experience of similar work at Sheffield University. He is a Member of the Board of Architectural Education of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and this Board has already signalled its approval of the new school by giving to it full recognition, which will carry with it for the successful student exemption from most of the Institute's examinations.

Great as are the opportunities thus opened up to those who have lately entered or who contemplate entering the architectural and town-planning professions, we feel that from the point of view of the public, particularly of those who desire to cultivate the appreciation of architecture and civic dignity, the new school is full of possibilities. Other colleges outside Wales have established schools of architecture within recent years, and the fact that the Principality is late in adopting the same course—possibly owing to the lack of public appreciation of its value to the citizen—has, at the same time, given us the opportunity of embodying the best of the educational experience from elsewhere in this new venture.

We would particularly appeal to architects with pupils, to headmasters of secondary schools, and to the advisers of youth generally, to bear in mind the facilities which are offered by the School of Architecture at the Cardiff Technical College.—We are, Sir, Yours faithfully,

PLYMOUTH.

GEORGE F. FORSDIKE

(Lord Mayor of Cardiff).

W. EVANS HOYLE

(Director, National Museum of Wales).

WILLIAM JENKINS

(Chairman, Glamorgan County Council).

EDGAR JONES

(Headmaster, Barry County School).

IVOR P. JONES

(President, S. Wales Institute of Architects).

T. ALWYN LLOYD

(Architect, Welsh Town-planning and Housing Trust).

ALFRED MOND

(M.P., First Commissioner of H.M. Works).

GILBERT NORWOOD

(Professor of Greek, University College, Cardiff).

W. H. RENWICK

(Member Court of Governors National Museum of Wales).

WILLIAM SEAGER, M.P.

(Chairman, S. Wales Regional Survey, Ministry of Health).

D. LLEUFER THOMAS

(Chairman, Welsh Housing and Development Assoc.).

H. AVRAY TIPPING, F.S.A.



9 CONDUIT STREET, REGENT STREET, W., 23rd Oct. 1920.

CHRONICLE.

R.I.B.A. Sessional Meetings, 1920-1921.

The following are the arrangements for the forthcoming Session, the meetings being held at 8 p.m., except where otherwise indicated:—

Nov. 1.—INAUGURAL MEETING: PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, at 8.30 p.m.

Nov. 13.—General Meeting: THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS. By Rudolf Dircks, Librarian R.I.B.A.

Nov. 29.—Business Meeting: Election of Members.

Dec. 13.—General Meeting: SARACENIC ARCHITECTURE IN EGYPT AND PALESTINE. By M. S. Briggs [F.].

Jan. 3, 1921.—Business Meeting: Election of Members.

Jan. 17.—General Meeting: THE RESTORATION OF PRAENESTE. By H. Chalton Bradshaw [A.]. AWARD OF PRIZES AND STUDENTSHIPS.

Jan. 31.—PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO STUDENTS, at 8.30, followed by the PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.

Feb. 14.—General Meeting: THE CUNARD BUILDING. By W. E. Willink [F.].

Feb. 28.—Special and Business Meetings: Election of Royal Gold Medallist; Election of Members.

Mar. 14.—General Meeting: COTTAGE HOSPITALS. By H. Percy Adams [F.].

April 4.—General Meeting: THE LAND SETTLEMENT BUILDING WORK OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. By Sir Lawrence Weaver, K.B.E., F.S.A. [Hon. A.].

April 18.—General Meeting: THE UTILITY OF RESEARCH INTO BUILDING MATERIALS. By Alan E. Munby, M.A. Cantab. [F.].

May 2.—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

May 23.—General Meeting: Sessional Paper (Subject to be announced).

June 6.—Business Meeting: Election of Council and Standing Committees; Election of Members.

June 20.—PRESENTATION OF THE ROYAL GOLD MEDAL, at 8.30.

Exhibition of Civic Survey Diagrams.

At the R.I.B.A. Galleries on 2nd November there will be opened an extremely interesting Exhibition of Civic Survey Diagrams. The scheme for this work originated in the early part of the war in order to find employment for many architects whose work had entirely ceased in consequence of the stoppage of building on the outbreak of hostilities.

The Exhibition should be of importance to all who are interested in improving the amenities of our towns and cities, as it is the first occasion in this country on which such a scheme has been attempted. Broadly,

the idea behind the undertaking is to give, in diagrammatic form, the basis or ground work for development in town planning. Data covering the whole ground of a city's activities are recorded—the methods of governance, the manufacturing and residential conditions, the places for work and recreation, the incidence of health and disease, the birth and death rates, traffic facilities, the climatic conditions, etc. Part of this information is published in the records of municipal corporations and authorities, which are not very accessible and not always clear in their statistical presentation. A good deal of the information conveyed by the diagrams is, however, the result of independent investigation by the Civic Survey. Town planning schemes in the past have often been elaborated without any clear realisation of the sociological and material conditions governing the site, or, what is of equal importance, its environment. In the diagrammatic form elaborated by the Civic Surveys these conditions are made comprehensible at a glance. The areas dealt with comprise Greater London, districts in South Lancashire, and Leeds. The London Society's "Development Plan of Greater London of the Future" will also be included in the exhibits.

Special conferences will be held during the exhibition upon such matters as London Traffic, London Housing, Public Health (Preventive and Curative), Business Aspects of the Civic Survey, Civic Survey from the Woman's point of view, Geology and the Civic Survey, the History and Archaeology of London, etc.

During the progress of the work the Civic Surveys created a good deal of interest, and have been visited by H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. Princess Mary, Sir George H. Murray, Mr. J. Herbert Lewis, Mr. John Burns, and many other distinguished persons. Mr. John Burns is particularly interested in the work, and considers it an invaluable contribution to municipal records.

It is hoped that the exhibition will be well attended and that county and municipal authorities will see the advantage of adopting the methods which it so admirably outlines.

Architectural Competitions.

The following Memorandum has been drawn up for circulation throughout the country, its purpose being to inform promoters of competitions of the course they must adopt if they wish to secure without delay the co-operation of those who are best qualified to provide designs for the buildings they have in view:—

Public bodies and others have of late years frequently had recourse to competitions amongst architects where buildings of a public or otherwise important nature are needed. It is assumed that the motive prompting bodies who promote such competitions is that they are desirous of getting the best design possible for their project. Architects taking part in such competitions are naturally desirous of producing the

best possible designs. It will, therefore, be readily seen that the interests are identical.

It not infrequently happens, however, that conditions issued in connection with such competitions are faulty and offer no inducement to architects to compete. When such conditions are brought to the notice of the Royal Institute of British Architects or the Society of Architects, the authorities concerned are at once communicated with and the defective or unsatisfactory clauses in their conditions pointed out. In many cases the authorities concerned (who it has been found have usually drawn up their conditions in ignorance of the Regulations published by the R.I.B.A. and the Society of Architects) are willing to revise their conditions so as to render them satisfactory. In other cases, however, no such desirable results have been arrived at and, in consequence, many competitions have of necessity been banned. When this has occurred sometimes no designs have been submitted and often only a very few designs from architects of little or no standing in the profession.

If the regulations governing such competitions were adopted by all bodies promoting them much vexatious delay would be avoided and the banning of competitions would be at once rendered unnecessary. Promoters who are considering a public competition in its earliest stages should at once appoint an experienced professional assessor to advise them. He will draw up the conditions regulating the competition, incorporating in such conditions all the essentials needed by the promoters, and he will at the same time be fully conversant with the regulations issued governing architectural competitions, to which he will closely adhere. His advice will also be invaluable to the promoters in arriving at the technical answers to questions, in deciding what is a reasonable cost for the buildings, and finally in judging the best design and the practicability of its being erected for the cost stipulated. Further, the fact of a good assessor having been appointed has a strong moral effect upon those of his fellow architects who are contemplating the preparation of a design. They would naturally prefer their design to be judged by one who is expert in the subject rather than by a committee of laymen who cannot hope to possess the necessary qualifications in this respect. If the promoters so desire, the President of the R.I.B.A. or the Society of Architects will be pleased to advise them in the nomination of an assessor.

The Royal Institute and the Society of Architects again point out that they have no desire to place a ban upon competition. It cannot, however, be too clearly stated that unless public competitions are promoted in such a manner as will ensure a satisfactory decision and the conditions are in accordance with the regulations issued by these bodies, delays and disappointment will inevitably follow.

[The document is signed by Messrs. H. V. Lanchester [F.], W. G. Wilson [F.], and Herbert A. Welch [A.], respectively Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the R.I.B.A. Competitions Committee, and by Mr. McArthur Butler, Secretary of the Society of Architects.]

Our War Memorials and their Makers.

The following letter has been addressed from the Institute of Scottish Architects to the Editors of the principal newspapers in Scotland :—

SIR,—Almost daily the Press reports the unveiling of one or more of the memorials which every parish, village, church and school is erecting with pious zeal to its dead in the Great War.

Are these monuments proving worthy of the occasion which has evoked them? Not, it must be admitted, in every case. Yet of a very considerable majority it may be said that they show on the part of the community, with, at times, the valuable direction of the Advisory Committee promoted by the Royal Scottish Academy, the avoidance of the commonplace or the stock article, and the demand, within the limits imposed, for what is fitting and good in design and execution. And this demand our craftsmen have, in general, shown their capacity to fulfil with credit to themselves and the country. So, for the last year and more, many of our ablest architects, sculptors and art workers in the various crafts have been giving of their best, with remuneration in most cases altogether incommensurate with the labour involved. Hampered by scarcity of materials and labour, with resultant abnormal costs, yet inspired with the desire to give articulate expression to the prevailing sentiment, which, sharing with their fellows, it is their responsible task to put in enduring shape, they have spent in the aggregate an incalculable amount of thought and skill on the works now, for the first time, exposed to view.

Their labour accomplished, what consideration is devoted to this aspect of the question in the Press reports? In general, none. The speech of the local dignitary who has performed the ceremony of unveiling, more or less condensed according to his social position, the baldest description of the memorial—"an ionic (*sic*) column," "a brass tablet"—and the number of the names inscribed sum up the contents of the paragraph.

I venture to submit that this neglect of what, for the nation, is in many respects the most important aspect of the situation, is deplorable, as indicating the apathy of the Press to the arts other than that of the subject picture. Surely the recognition which the designers and executants are entitled to in view of their important work calls at the least for the mention of their names (as to which any reporter can inform himself), with the addition, in the case of public memorials, of an informed appreciation of these from the point of view of fitness and design. Such recognition also would result in a widely increased circle of readers, seeing that the information at present vouchsafed concerns only the comparatively small number connected with the locality in question, while the wider aspect is of interest to all art workers and art lovers throughout the country.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ALEXANDER N. PATERSON [F.]

Edinburgh. President, Institute of Scottish Architects.

Rheims Cathedral Restoration Fund.

The following is communicated by the Rev. G. H. WEST, D.D. [*Hon. A.*], author of *Gothic Architecture in England and France*, a former pupil of E. E. Viollet-le-Duc, and for many years an Associate of the Institute:

On 6th July last a letter from the Duke of Portland appeared in the papers on behalf of a scheme, which originated in Denmark, to raise contributions to a world-wide Fund towards the restoration of Rheims Cathedral as a memorial to all the Allied soldiers who were killed in the war, and also as a mark of the profound sympathy felt by people of all classes and creeds with the sorely tried French nation. The movement has been warmly taken up and a very influential Committee appointed, under whose auspices a public meeting is to be held in the Mansion House on 3rd November, at which the Lord Mayor has kindly consented to take the Chair.

The issue of the appeal was rightly discontinued whilst that for Westminster Abbey was being made, but a great amount of spade-work was got through meanwhile by the Executive Committee, so that a very wide propaganda is assured. This note is not intended so much to ask for the support of the architectural profession as a whole—the object in itself must do that—as to reassure them about the meaning of "restoration" in this case, for it is a word justly dreaded by all lovers of architectural art. But to allow Rheims Cathedral to become the victim of careless ruin would be a crime against religion, the very soul of the French nation, and the highest spiritual expression of art.

The choir, transepts and north side have been grievously damaged, four bays of the vaulting, six arches, several flying buttresses, sixty statues and all the glass have been destroyed, but all the columns of the nave and chevet with their capitals are more or less intact. The building is structurally restorable. Artistically, there will be no attempt at "restoration," the old stones will be respected, and superficial disfigurements will remain as perennial reminders of barbarian violence. Whatever is done will be done in accordance with the principles of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments and of the Society of Antiquaries, and with the approval of the Société Française d'Archéologie and the Société des Amis de la Cathédrale de Reims. The latter Society is working at present only for the refurnishing of the Cathedral and its gradual restoration to public worship, and for the establishment of a "Musée Lapidaire." There will therefore be no clashing between the aims and methods of the French and English societies, but they will be able to join hands in an "entente cordiale" for the attainment of their common object.

Information relating to the movement may be obtained from Mrs. Aubrey le Blond, Hon. Secretary, Restoration of Rheims Cathedral British Empire Fund, 30 Regent Street, S.W.1.

Building Trade : Payment for "Wet" Time.

The following communication has been issued by the Ministry of Health :—

Negotiations have been proceeding for some months between the Government and representatives of the employers and operatives in the building trade with a view to ensuring an immediate and constant supply of skilled labour for housing schemes, and it will be remembered that a complete scheme with this object was submitted to the building trade by the Government. The main elements of this scheme were : (1) An increase in the number of skilled men in the trade by the grading up of unskilled men, the training of ex-Service men, and the resumption of apprenticeship extended to older men ; (2) a system of payment by results ; and (3) a guarantee against loss of wages for time lost on housing schemes through stress of weather.

For various reasons, the Building Resettlement Committee of the Joint Industrial Council of the Building Trade, with which the Government conducted negotiations, was unable to accept this scheme as it stood, but submitted alternative proposals which it was prepared to put before the trade unions. These alternative proposals were accepted by the Government on the understanding, which was fully recognised by the Resettlement Committee, that if they failed to attain their object the whole question should be further considered. The proposals are to be forthwith submitted to the trade unions concerned for their consideration.

Essentially, the proposals of the Resettlement Committee consisted of the resumption of ordinary apprenticeship in the building trade, the introduction of an adult apprenticeship system on agreed lines, proposals for action to encourage labour to concentrate on housing schemes and the adoption of a scheme, to be arranged in detail between employers and operatives, for providing security against loss of wages by stress of weather. Difficulties arose as to the basis of a scheme for providing security against loss of wages, and the Resettlement Committee preferred that it itself should frame a scheme of payment for wet time which could be brought into operation at once upon housing schemes, pending the settlement of a general scheme which would be applicable to the industry as a whole. After much discussion, however, the representatives of the employers and operatives upon the Committee failed to agree upon the basis of such an arrangement. The Minister of Health decided, therefore, to call the Resettlement Committee together, and endeavour to secure an agreement. A meeting with this object was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Addison at the Ministry of Health, on Wednesday last week. The representatives of the employers were prepared to adopt a scheme under which payment should be made at full rates for 50 per cent. of all time lost through stress of weather ; the operatives, on the other hand, pressed that the figure of 75 per cent. should be adopted instead of 50 per cent. Although, in exceptional cases, loss to the operatives from bad weather conditions may amount to a large proportion of the week's wages, the average time lost throughout the year is comparatively small, and the difference between the effect of the two proposals cannot be regarded as very considerable. It was accordingly hoped that the two sides would have been able to find a formula which would have been acceptable to both. After prolonged negotiation, however, the two parties again failed to agree.

In view of the deadlock which had been reached, Dr. Addison announced that he would be prepared, in the case of any of the building trades which undertook to accept and work the whole scheme originally put forward by the Re-

settlement Committee, to bring into operation on housing schemes the following proposal : In the case of a man employed or standing by to work on a job when called upon for a full week, the payment for lost time shall be 50 per cent. in respect of time lost through stress of weather up to 22 hours per week ; in the case of time lost more than 22 hours, the hours lost over and above 22 hours shall be paid for at the rate of 75 per cent. of the time rate. The effect of this proposal will be that, if a man loses 22 hours of his 44-hour week, he will receive 75 per cent. of a full week's wages ; the cases in which a man loses more than half a week will be few, but when the whole week is lost the man who stands by on the job will be ensured a payment of 62½ per cent. of his full week's wages.

The representatives of the operatives on the Resettlement Committee, after prolonged discussion, agreed to accept Dr. Addison's suggestion for favourable recommendation to their members, together with the other general proposals of the Resettlement Committee. The representatives of the employers, while holding that the suggestion went further than they could go, were understood to be prepared to acquiesce in its application to housing schemes in conjunction with the other general proposals of the Resettlement Committee.

Building Restrictions : L.C.C. Prohibition Orders.

The Special (Building Control) Committee of the London County Council reported at the Council Meeting on the 19th inst. that during the three months ended 30th September last notices of intention to prohibit works were given in 21 cases, and in 16 cases, after hearing representations and objections by persons concerned, the committee issued orders prohibiting the construction of works or buildings, on the ground that the provision of dwelling accommodation for the area of the Council was or was likely to be delayed by a deficiency of labour or materials caused by their employment elsewhere, and that the buildings were of less public importance for the time being than the provision of dwelling accommodation. In three cases no order was issued, as arrangements were made for the work to be undertaken in such a manner as to avoid the use of labour and materials required for housing works. One order was made extending an existing order for a further period of six months.

In 138 cases the committee decided to offer no objection to the work being proceeded with, as the buildings did not fall within the low category as defined in Housing Memorandum No. 22 issued by the Ministry of Health, and the proposed method of construction was of such a character or the work of so small a value as not to be likely to interfere with housing operations.

In 128 other cases the committee have secured undertakings for the elimination of brickwork either entirely or the restriction of its use in certain special cases in which a limited amount of brickwork was deemed to be essential.

The committee further report that thirteen appeals against decisions of the Council under sections 5 and 6 of the Act have been heard. In nine cases of prohibition of buildings the action of the Council was

upheld by the Appeal Tribunal, in view of special circumstances which included modification of materials to be used and the stage to which work had been advanced; appeals in respect of the prohibition of buildings were allowed in three cases, and one appeal was allowed in respect of the demolition of dwelling accommodation.

Luxury Building: Prime Minister's Pronouncement.

At the interview of the London Mayors with the Prime Minister last Monday, Mr. Carmichael, Secretary of the London Trades Council, raised the question of taking men off luxury building. "You may take it from me," said Mr. Lloyd George, "that we are not going to allow it. We are going to employ ex-Service men on building, and if the building trades object to it they must take their chance." Some Labour members protested that there were other obstacles, notably the shortage of cement and timber, and congestion at the docks, but Mr. Lloyd George adhered to his statement, and said that the other matters would be fully inquired into.

London University Buildings.

The Senate of London University, at their meeting on the 20th inst., passed the following resolution:—

That his Majesty's Government be informed that the Senate are prepared to accept the offer made in Mr. Fisher's letter of 7th April, 1920,* to the Chancellor of the site therein described, *gratis* and in perpetuity, on the terms as regards the maintenance, rates, etc., of the University headquarters buildings laid down in the Treasury Minutes of 16th February and 13th July, 1899, and in Mr. Fisher's letters of 26th June, 24th September, and 6th October, 1920, to the Vice-Chancellor, provided:—

(1) That such grant for maintenance, rates, etc., shall not be counted as a portion of the grants made to universities for educational purposes;

(2) That the allocation of the site between the various buildings to be erected thereon shall be at the sole discretion of the Senate of the University;

(3) That the University shall retain and King's College shall retain full possession of their present sites and buildings under the conditions under which they now hold them until such time as the new buildings are ready for occupation and are free from debt;

(4) That the buildings to be erected for the University headquarters shall be, as regards dimensions and design, in accordance with plans to be agreed upon between the Senate and his Majesty's Treasury, and shall afford not less than 50 per cent. more floor space than is now allocated in the buildings at South Kensington for the separate use of the University;

(5) That the terms of the removal of King's College from the Strand to the Bloomsbury site shall be a matter of subsequent negotiation between his Majesty's Government, the Council of King's College, and the Senate of the University, and that an agreement shall be concluded between the said parties;

and that the Senate, in accepting, subject to the above conditions, the Government's offer of a site in Bloomsbury, assume that the offer does not incidentally involve a policy of curtailing the development of the work of those colleges and schools of the University which are not now, nor in the future will be, situated in the neighbourhood of the Bloomsbury site, and that these institutions will not receive less favourable consideration at the hands of the Government than would otherwise have been the case.

The Report of the Education Committee of the London County Council, which was before the Council at their meeting last Tuesday, quoting the Higher Education Sub-Committee's report, states that it appears from the letter of the President of the Board of Education dated 6th October that the Government is now, in effect, prepared to consider the making, through the University Grants Committee, and in response to contributions from local or municipal sources, of a building grant towards the cost of the new University headquarters in Bloomsbury. The University, in accepting the offer of the Government, would give up inadequate accommodation, occupying two sites of approximately two acres each, and would receive instead a site of 11½ acres together with a sum representing the fair value of the King's College building, and would also have a clear expectation of receiving, through the University Grants Committee, assistance towards the erection of the necessary buildings on the new site, provided that adequate contributions are secured from municipal and private sources.

The Education Committee made the following recommendation:—"That, subject to satisfactory arrangements being made between the Government and the Council of King's College for the reinstatement of King's College on the proposed Bloomsbury site, and in the event of the University of London accepting the site in Bloomsbury referred to in Mr. H. A. L. Fisher's letter dated 7th April, 1920,* and provided that adequate grants are made by the Government for the erection of administrative buildings on the new site, the Council is prepared to consider an application for a building grant for this purpose subject to the condition that the Council's contribution shall not exceed one-third of the contribution made by the Government in respect of expenditure not exceeding £1,000,000."

University Buildings: Concentration not Essential.

Professor Sir E. Ray Lankester, joining in the discussion which has been going on in *The Times* as to the most desirable site on which to house the University of London, considers that it is of vital importance that the public and the graduates of the University should be informed with clearness and sufficient detail what part or parts of the functions of a university are to be served by the new buildings. Many, he says, will agree that the University should have a dignified building on such a central site as that of Bloomsbury, to contain a great hall of assembly, committee rooms for administrative purposes, and one, or perhaps two, lecture theatres of moderate size, for occasional use. "On the other hand," argues the Professor, "it is surely not desirable to associate with these either libraries, museums, laboratories, or class-rooms. These may well be placed in comparatively remote, yet readily accessible, situations where light and air are good. They are at present scattered in various institutions in London and, though forming parts of the University, are not, and should not be, squeezed together on one small central smoky site. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are happily, at present, free

* JOURNAL R.I.B.A., 29th May, p. 359.

from any such concentration. In them university buildings are scattered widely and have space to develop. There is a persistent false suggestion about the word 'university' which engenders a popular notion that it must teach everything, and must aim at doing so in some wonderful 'universally provided' central establishment. Really the 'university' is merely a corporation, and can carry out its trust and do its work best by comparatively isolated, well-placed "institutes," each adapted for some special line of teaching and research and capable of expansion without enormous cost for site. The modern facilities of motor-omnibus and tube railways render Hampstead and Wimbledon as convenient for teacher and pupil as were Lambeth and Bloomsbury in earlier days."

Exhibition of Architectural Drawings, Norwich.

Messrs. Edward T. Boardman [F.] and Stanley J. Wearing [A.] contribute the following notice of the above exhibition:—

The Architects' and Surveyors' Assistants' Professional Union are to be congratulated on organising this Exhibition, which enables Assistants living in the Provinces to study the actual drawings of good work, and also helps to interest the Public in the Art. The Exhibition is being held at the Agricultural Hall, Norwich, in connection with the Norwich Housing and Home Life Economy Exhibition. The drawings represent the efforts of some of the foremost draughtsmen in the country, and many were prepared for Students' competitions.

The exhibits fall into several well-defined divisions:

I. Measured Drawings.—The measured drawings show excellent choice of subject and all are well drawn. We would, however, mention those by Mr. J. Grieve [A.], depicting the South Porch of St. Mary's, Beverley, drawn with a clear and firm line, the jointing of stonework being carefully indicated. Also the drawings of St. George's Hall, Liverpool, by Mr. F. O. Lawrence, B.Arch. (Liverpool), [A.], this year's Prix de Rome winner: the draughtsmanship and method of portrayal here are of a very high order.

II. Sketches.—We should like to have seen a larger exhibit under this heading to inspire a very instructive and enjoyable part of our studies, which should be the recreative side of the profession. There are some charming little sketches by Mr. Harvey, B.A., and etchings by Mr. C. Newman are worthy of note. Two panels of mounted sketches by Mr. Hoffer, some in pencil and some in colour, show draughtsmanship of rare excellence and deserve careful scrutiny.

III. Architectural Designs.—These form an excellent show and will repay the student's closest study. The Opera House, by Mr. Hamlyn (winner of the British Institution Scholarship in Architecture of £100 in 1913), is boldly conceived and does not suffer by the restraint of the fixed sum which we are so often up against in our daily practice. The design submitted for the R.A. Gold Medal for a Town Hall, by Mr. R. J. Thomson, shows an ambitious plan and a delicately drawn half-inch detail so well associated with work from this school. Amongst other good sheets some by

Mr. McLachlan [A.], Honorary Secretary to the Association, are shown. There are many other drawings all serving to demonstrate the quality and scope of the work which is being done in the great Architectural Schools of the country. Students would do well to notice the design for Almshouses by Mr. Harvey, the planning being arranged on a confined site round the grass court. The stippling employed as a finish to the drawing seems to be growing in favour among architectural draughtsmen to-day, as the exhibits at the Royal Academy bear evidence.

Amongst such a well-selected collection of drawings there is much to be learnt under the various headings mentioned. The exhibition affords an opportunity which students would be well advised to take advantage for a careful and detailed study of the methods adopted by the draughtsmen in obtaining the effects produced.

Revival of the Village Sign.

The exhibition of Village Signs and Emblems held during the past week at Australia House, under the auspices of the *Daily Mail*, was one of exceeding interest, presenting a gay and varied spectacle of village chronicles, expressed in heraldry, legend, historical allusion, and wit and humour. The exhibition was the outcome of a remark made by the Duke of York in the course of his speech at the opening of this year's Royal Academy, that "the revival of the village sign or emblem, lettered and conspicuously displayed, would be a welcome guide to the visitor in a strange land. The name of many a village would offer scope for the wit and humour of the artist. In the neighbourhood of Sandringham these village signs have been introduced with considerable success." The *Daily Mail* at once took up the suggestion and launched a competition, offering ten prizes, ranging from £1,000 down to £50—£2,200 altogether—for the best designs for village signs on the lines indicated by the Duke of York. Sir Aston Webb, P.R.A., and Mr. Frank Brangwyn, R.A., consented to act as assessors. The response has been exceedingly gratifying to the promoters. In all, 617 designs were submitted, and the assessors in their award express their admiration for the great amount of beautiful work submitted, showing much care, thought, and invention, combined with excellent colour and draughtsmanship. The assessors state that the high standard of excellence attained by many of the competitors had made it very difficult for them to appraise the order of merit of some of the designs. The Duke of York, presiding at the opening of the exhibition held at Australia House, when 220 of the designs were shown, said that all who examined the designs must agree that they were most beautiful and useful. Here could be seen history artistically expressed and tradition pictorially displayed. These attributes alone would justify the placing of these signs in the districts to which they related. But, in addition, the practical benefit would be claimed of enabling the traveller to know the name of the village through which he was passing. His Royal Highness stated that several far-seeing and public-spirited local authorities had agreed to provide a site for the prize-winning designs. He suggested that the other local authorities concerned, the legitimate guardians of historical records, might also consent to the erection of the numerous signs in the exhibition which, though not gaining prize awards, yet displayed great ingenuity, beauty and merit.

The winner of the £1,000 prize was Mr. Percy G. Matthews, of 27 Norlington Road, Leytonstone, for his sign for St. Peter's in Thanet; 2nd prize (£500), Mr. Geoffrey Webb, East Grinstead, for a sign for Mayfield; 3rd (£200), Miss Dorothy Hutton, 181 King's Road, Chelsea, for a sign for Battle, where was fought the Battle of Hastings; 4th (£100), Mr. Eustace P. E. Nash, Winton, Bournemouth, for a sign for Christchurch. There were six additional prizes of £50 each. It was laid down that designs submitted in the competition must be for work that could be carried out at a cost not exceeding £250; the estimated cost of the erection of the premiated signs was well within that figure. Mr. Matthews's sign for the village of St. Peter's in Thanet shows St. Peter holding two golden keys and standing on the Isle of Thanet. Boldness and simplicity are its characteristic note, and it is eminently suitable for the purpose for which it was designed. The artist has provided that the sign itself shall be supported on a teak post furnished at the base with seats of the same material. Every competitor seems to have thrown off convention and given happy ideas free rein. Swaffham is represented by "Ye Tinker of Swaffham who did by a dream find a great treasure." Biddenden's sign shows the Biddenden twins, Elisa and Mary. The Widecombe sign displays Tom Pearce's grey mare with its wonderful load, including Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, "Old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all." A design both beautiful and bold in execution is that for Kirkclee, which shows Robin Hood in the action of loosing the dreaded long bow.

Four New Roads for London.

It is understood that four new thoroughfares are to be planned in North-East London jointly by the Ministry of Transport and the L.C.C. The scheme, which is to be carried out without the demolition of any buildings, is to be paid for in equal shares by the two bodies, but the Ministry may advance funds to the L.C.C. if it is found necessary. The Ministry of Transport hope that considerable relief will be afforded to the general congestion of traffic in the north and east of London, and that a considerable area, which is now difficult of access by any of the arterial communications, may be opened up and "rediscovered."

Work is to begin at once, the final arrangements having been practically concluded. The new roads are the following:—

1. East Ham.—Beckton Road, Barking, Dagenham.
2. Hackney, Leyton, Wanstead, and Ilford.—The "Eastern Avenue."
3. Tottenham, Edmonton, Cheshunt.—"The New Cambridge Road."
4. Edmonton, Chingford, Walthamstow, via Lea Marshes.—"The North Circular Road."

M. Louis Bonnier [*Hon. Corr. M.*].

M. Louis Bonnier [*Hon. Corr. Member*], Inspecteur-Général des Services techniques d'Architecture et d'Esthétique, representing the Prefect of the Seine, will be the special guest of the London Society at a dinner to be held at the Waldorf Hotel on the 29th inst., the Earl of Crawford [*Hon. A.*] in the chair. During the evening, M. Bonnier will give a short account of the problem of the extension of London compared with that of Paris. Earlier in the day M. Bonnier will read a Paper on the Extension of Paris at a special meeting of the London Society to be held at the Lecture Hall, 18, John Street, Adelphi, when Sir Aston Webb, P.R.A., will presided.

The President.

The President, Mr. John W. Simpson, who went to Cairo during the recess on a mission for the Egyptian Government in connection with the Quasr-el-Aini Hospital, has now returned, and will deliver the Inaugural Address of the new Session on Monday evening, 1st November.

COMPETITIONS.

Lockerbie War Memorial Competition.

As a result of correspondence between the Competitions Committee of the R.I.B.A. and the promoters, the conditions of this Competition are now in order and there is no objection to Members and Licentiates taking part therein.

Gateshead War Memorial Competition.

The Competitions Committee desire to call the attention of Members and Licentiates to the fact that the conditions of the above competition being unsatisfactory, they are in negotiation with the promoters in the hope of securing an amendment. In the meantime Members and Licentiates are advised to take no part therein.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS WILLIAM ALDWINCKLE, who died on the 16th September, had been a Fellow of the Institute since 1887. He was articled in 1858 for a term of four years to Mr. H. E. Cooper, of 7, South Square, Gray's Inn, and commenced practice in 1869, in the same year getting his first important commission, the Infirmary for the Parish of St. George-in-the-East, costing £20,000. Other early works were the Lambeth Workhouse (£100,000), Wandsworth and Clapham Union Workhouse (£90,000), Leathersellers' Company's Livery Hall (£30,000), Lewisham Public Baths (£25,000), school for the London School Board in 1872, and schools for provincial School Boards. Later works included the new Camberwell Workhouse; Wandsworth and Clapham Union Dispensary and Relief Station, Battersea; St. Pancras Baths and Wash-houses, Prince of Wales Road; Alterations, Kensington Workhouse. He did a large amount of work for the Metropolitan Asylums Board, including Brook Hospital, Shooters' Hill; the Fountain Hospital, Tooting, also a temporary hospital at Gore Farm, Dartford, Kent, for an epidemic of smallpox; enlargement of South-Eastern Hospital, Old Kent Road, and South-Western Hospital at Stockwell; and the Princess Mary's Hospital for Children at Margate. His last works were the enlargement of Tooting Bec Asylum, which had been suspended during the war, and the Chemical Works at Dartford for the Monazite Products, Ltd. He contributed to the Institute TRANSACTIONS a valuable Paper on Fever Hospitals, read before the Institute in February 1895 [JOURNAL, 28th

February 1895]. For the three years 1896, 1897, and 1898 he placed at the disposal of the Institute a Studentship of the value of £50 per annum for travel and sketching in Spain, to be awarded to the student who among all those submitting works for the Institute Prizes in any of the above years the Council should consider best qualified to carry out the donor's intentions. It is of interest to recall that the favoured students were Mr. H. S. East [A.] (1896), Mr. A. T. Griffith (1897) and Mr. J. B. Fulton [A.] (1898).

THOMAS WILSON ALDWINCKLE, son and partner of the above, pre-deceased his father by about six weeks. He was articled to his father in 1894, and was afterwards for two years a first-grade assistant in the Director of Works Department at the Admiralty. He joined his father in partnership in 1900, and was elected an Associate of the Institute in 1901.

Since the death of the principals, Mr. J. Barnett, who had assisted Messrs. Aldwinckle for two years, has been in charge of the work the firm had in hand.

The death is also announced of the following:—

MARTINSON, MATTHEW GEORGE, *Licentiate*.

PARKIN, ROBERT ARTHUR, *Licentiate*.

SUTHERLAND, GEORGE ANGUS, *Licentiate*.

DYER, CECIL WILMINGTON, *Licentiate*.

CIRCULAR LETTER TO LICENTIATES.

Association of Licentiates.

DEAR SIR,—As no doubt you are aware, the above Association has been formed, with enthusiastic support from many quarters. The Executive Committee appeals to all Licentiates to join the Association, and to those in the provinces to form local committees to discuss the question of unification, and delegate one of their members to keep in touch with the Executive.

It will be seen that six districts, outside London, are represented on the Executive, and it is hoped that every centre in Great Britain will be able to form a local committee, so that by correspondence the Executive may be informed on all matters affecting the position of architects, and the advantages to be derived by unification of the profession, at the same time being informed with regard to the necessary safeguards to be taken to assure the proper protection of Licentiates, and others, who are not at present corporate members of the R.I.B.A.

It has been brought to the knowledge of the Executive Committee that there is a wide feeling that the question of unification has been taken up where it was dropped in 1914, and the Committee is anxious to assure members that this is not the case.

The Committee is convinced that at the present time there is a general belief in unification as a means to the advancement of architecture which will benefit the architect of the future, and that the old idea of "sheep and goats" has given way to an ideal which is wide enough to embrace all those who are devoted to the arts and crafts of architecture and building.

Licentiates have been invited by the Council of the R.I.B.A. to take their part in the organisation of the whole profession, and the Association has been formed that we may give of our best for the general benefit. To do this effectively it is necessary to obtain the views of some 1,750 Licentiates living in all parts of the country, and this is possible, through local committees in touch with the central Executive, if we have the full support of the whole Licentiate class.

The Committee prefer to "let the dead past bury its dead" and to take up the question of unification as it stands at present, and those who have followed the reports of the meetings held at the R.I.B.A. do not need to be reminded that the present Unification Committee is formed of representatives of Fellows, Associates and Licentiates of the R.I.B.A., the A.A., members of the Society of Architects, and of unattached architects: therefore the Committee is really representative of all architects, if each section is representative of those they are elected to serve.

The meeting held on September 17th endorsing the election of Licentiates' representatives, and approving the action taken between May and September, the forming of the Association and the enthusiastic support already given, make it abundantly clear that the Licentiate members of the Unification Committee do in fact truly represent the whole body of Licentiates, and the Executive Committee is now anxious to give them all the help in its power that they may well and truly serve on the Committee, and that their views may be received as the expression of opinion of a large body of experienced men, and not only those of a few individuals.

Licentiates are invited to join the Association (subscription 5s.) and communicate with the Secretary.

Reports will appear from time to time in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL and the Press.

J. E. YERBURY, *Chairman*

S. G. SHORT, *Hon. Sec.*

L. S. YOUNGMAN, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

} *Licentiates*
} *R.I.B.A.*

SESSION 1920-21.

Opening Meeting, Monday, 1st Nov. 1920, at 8.30 p.m.

THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING (ORDINARY) of the Session 1920-21 will be held Monday, 1st November 1920, at 8.30 p.m., for the following purposes:—To read the Minutes of the General Meeting (Business) held Monday, 7th June; to announce the names of candidates for membership.

The President, Mr. JOHN W. SIMPSON, to deliver THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Partnership required by Officer, Royal Engineers, about to be demobilised. London or provinces. Prior to war had practice in Liverpool and Isle of Man.—Address Box 110, Secretary R.I.B.A., 9, Conduit Street.

Architect (Member R.I.B.A.) of exceptional experience and qualification is desirous of resuming practice, and seeks partnership in an office with good prospects, or would consider position with a view to an early partnership.—Address Box 180, Secretary R.I.B.A., 9, Conduit Street, W.

ASSOCIATE (32) at present in Toronto is desirous of position as Assistant in London or Southern County office. Six years' London experience; four years' experience in store, factory and domestic work in best Canadian offices.—"Box 276," The Secretary, R.I.B.A.

